HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO FORM THE KAPUA LANDS CONSORTIUM TO ASSESS THE BEST WAY TO ACQUIRE THE LANDS OF KAPUA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII.

WHEREAS, the lands of Kapua on the island of Hawaii are a scenic wonder with breathtaking shoreline views; and

WHEREAS, the lands of Kapua comprise at least 7,000 acres in South Kona that are classified as agricultural or conservation land; and

WHEREAS, the lands of Kapua were purchased by Honomalino Agricultural Company from Bishop Estates then sold to multiple owners until being acquired by South Kona LLC from One Keahole Partners; and

WHEREAS, the South Kona LLC website describes the lands of Kapua as a desirable location for an exotic vacation retreat and vacation home ownership where "traditional Hawaiian language, dance, music, and craftsmanship thrive" and as "a haven where modern and ancient are interwoven, a place still sparsely populated and open to discovery"; and

WHEREAS, the lands of Kapua are currently slated for development by South Kona LLC, who has so far developed the Ko Olina Resort on Oahu and Princeville at Hanalei; and

WHEREAS, the State should seek to acquire Kapua in the interest of preserving the area's diminishing pristine condition for future generations while ensuring the preservation of agriculture and the prudent economic development of the area; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-eighth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2015, the Senate concurring, that the Department of

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Land and Natural Resources is requested to form the Kapua Lands Consortium to assess the best way to acquire the lands of Kapua on the island of Hawaii; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and Natural Resources form the Kapua Lands Consortium in consultation with The Trust for Public Land Hawaii Advisory Board and The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i, and that the consortium be limited to five members who represent organizations whose mission is to conserve, protect, and steward land or to preserve natural resources and Native Hawaiian customs and practices or improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Kapua Lands Consortium work with the Legislative Reference Bureau to draft legislation prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2016; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, The Trust for Public Land Hawaii Advisory Board, and Executive Director of The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii.

OFFERED BY:

